

Message Text

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14-S-11

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 SR-02 ORM-01 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02

SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /055 W

----- 104045

R 300637Z ARR 75

FM AMEMBASSY DACCA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6562

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L DACCA 2098

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SREF, BG, PK

SUBJECT: REPATRIATION OF BIHARIS TO PAKISTAN

REF: DACCA 1023

1. FOREIGN SECRETARY FAKHRUDDIN AHMED INDICATED TO ME YESTERDAY THAT ENCOURAGEMENT HE HAD FELT EARLIER THIS YEAR ABOUT POSSIBLE RESUMPTION OF LIMITED UNHCR AIRLIFT OF BIHARIS TO PAKISTAN HAD SO FAR BEEN DISAPPOINTED. THEY HAD BEEN PURSUING THIS QUESTION THROUGH THE SWISS AND THROUGH UNHCR IN GENEVA AND, ALTHOUGH THEY WERE NOT ENTIRELY CLEAR ON THE FACTS, IT APPEARED LIKELY THAT PAKISTAN HAD NOT GIVEN FINAL APPROVAL FOR REPATRIATION OF THE FEW THOUSAND (THOUGHT TO BE BETWEEN 4,000 AND 12,000) BIHARIS HAD BEEN ALREADY BEEN CLEARED FOR REPATRIATION BEFORE THE ORIGINAL AIRLIFT HAD BEEN SUSPENDED. HE SAID IT WAS HIS IMPRESSION THAT THE \$50,000 WE HAD CONTRIBUTED TO UNHCR EARLIER THIS YEAR TO HELP RESUMPTION OF REPATRIATION FLIGHTS FROM BANGLADESH AND NEPAL HAD BEEN USED ONLY IN NEPAL AS PAKISTAN WANTED TO MAKE A GESTURE TO THAT GOVERNMENT.

2. FOREIGN SECRETARY ADDED THAT HE ALSO HAD IMPRESSION
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FROM THEIR TALKS WITH UNHCR IN GENEVA THAT FUNDING MIGHT
AGAIN BE A PROBLEM. HE POINTED OUT THAT IT WAS ALSO
EXPENSIVE FOR BDG TO MAINTAIN CAMPS HERE.

3. ACTION REQUESTED. ANY INFORMATION FROM ADDRESSEE
POSTS ABOUT PROSPECTS FOR REPATRIATION FROM BANGLADESH,
ESPECIALLY INFORMATION WE COULD SHARE WITH BDG, WOULD
BE HELPFUL HERE.
BOSTER

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NNN

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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